

**Report card Survey**  
On  
"The textbook crisis of the secondary  
school students"

**Executive Summary**

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Report Card Survey

On

“The Secondary School Textbook Crisis”

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## **Introduction:**

A current crisis in the publication of textbooks for secondary school level education is a reflection of the education sector in Bangladesh. Only one publishing house was designated the task of publishing textbooks for the secondary schools in Bangladesh. For various reasons the publishing house failed to deliver the books in due time and the deadline was extended. Due to the delay in delivering the books twenty five million schoolchildren were compelled to begin the year without the necessary textbooks. The textbooks which were available were full of errors and frustrated pupils and guardians had to pay a higher price.

TIB conducted a Report Card Survey during the months of February and March, 2001, to measure the impact of the crisis over publication and distribution of NCTB books throughout the country.

## **Objectives:**

### **General objectives:**

The general objective of the survey was to measure overall affect of the shortage of textbooks and particularly extent and nature of lose incurred by the students and guardians of secondary schools and overall affect of the problem.

### **Specific objectives:**

The specific objectives of the survey have been to generate student's feedback on:

- availability of books
- quality of printing of books
- quality of binding of books
- prices of books
- error of books
- financial loses
- academic loses

## **Methodology:**

The survey was conducted through random sampling of 636 meritorious students between class six to class nine and 53 headmasters of high schools in 27 thanas under 21 districts of the country. The sampling error of this survey was less than 4 % at 95 % confidence level.



## **Opinion of the headmasters**

### **Availability of new textbooks:**

All headmasters included in the survey stated that no students could buy new books on all subjects.

### **Classes without new books:**

Seventy-two per cent of headmasters under survey expressed that they were taking classes with old sets of books, while another nineteen per cent said that they were taking classes without any books at all. Seventeen per cent of the headmasters surveyed were not assigned any teaching duty.

### **Types of error in the new books:**

When asked 38 per cent of the headmasters surveyed said that the new books contained factual and spelling errors, while two per cent did not find such mistakes. Around 60 per cent of the headmasters surveyed said that the new books contained substantial errors.

### **Examination in due time:**

Sixty-eight per cent of the teachers surveyed said examinations of secondary level were not held in time, while another 26 per cent disagreed with the view.

### **Solution of the problem:**

When asked how to solve the problem, more than 22 per cent of headmasters surveyed opined that make-up classes should be taken during vacations.

### **Nature of losses of the students:**

Sixty per cent of the students stated to have experienced irreparable loss owing to the failure of buying new books.

## **Opinion of the Students**

### **Availability of new textbooks:**

Around 98 per cent of the students reported to have failed to buy new textbooks on all subjects. Only one per cent of the students reported that they could buy new textbooks on all subjects. According to the report card sixteen percent of the students could not buy new



textbooks on any subjects. Of them, 75 per cent could not buy the textbooks owing to unavailability and another sixteen percent were refrained from the purchase of new books due higher price.

### **Classes and studying without new books:**

Seventy eight per cent students stated that they were using last year's books, while another nineteen per cent reported that they were not studying.

### **Student's loses:**

Ninety two per cent students disclosed that they were facing problems due to the scarcity of new books, while only six per cent stated otherwise.

### **Number of visit to the shops to buy new textbooks:**

The survey revealed that students and parents generally made as many as four visits to bookshops to buy new books. Some students even reported to have made visits exceeding sixteen times.

### **Notebooks along with textbooks:**

Forty nine per cent of the students alleged that they were compelled to buy notebooks along with textbooks, and each of the students had to spend Tk 34.38, on average, for purchasing notebooks.

### **Financial loses of the students:**

The report card survey disclosed that each student, on an average, had to spend Tk 34.38 on notebooks, additional six taka on each board book and Tk 21.70 on conveyance. Therefore, each student enrolled in classes ranging from six to eight had to spend an additional amount of Tk 98.08 (conveyance TK 21.70, notebook cost Tk 34.38 and additional cost for seven board books of Tk 42). On the other hand, students of class nine had to spend an additional Tk 122.809, including conveyance Tk 21.70, notebook Tk 34.38 and cost of 11 books for Tk 66.

### **Total Financial loses of the students:**

The report card survey revealed that students from class six to nine had to pay an additional amount of Tk 670 million (US\$ 12.41 million) due to textbook crisis.

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